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SELECT CASES 8

IN THE

PRACTICE of MEDICINE.

By **JOHN BRISBANE, M. D.** K

MEMBER of the ROYAL COLLEGE of PHYSICIANS,
And SENIOR PHYSICIAN to the MIDDLESEX
HOSPITAL.

Ἐργασίη τῆς καὶ βλάπτου.

L O N D O N :

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M.DCC.LXXII.

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BY JOHN BRISAVNE, M.D.
MANAGER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
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LONDON:
THE FOLLOWING CASES ARE BY THE
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AND E. AND C. DICKINSON, IN THE BUILDINGS,
M.DCC.LXXII.

To the READER.

IT is the duty of physicians, especially of those who have the care of hospitals, to give the public an account of their practice ; in order to shew they are faithful to their trust, and do what they can towards the improvement of medicine. As I have been near fourteen years physician to the Middlesex Hospital, and have spent above thirty years in the study and practice of medicine, it may be thought I should long ere now have given some specimen of that kind.

The following cases are by no means intended to amuse those who love the obscure and marvellous ; on the contrary, they
are



are chosen with a view to real utility, to shew what may be done, even in rare and dangerous diseases, by the use of the remedies already known, and these sometimes even of the most simple kind, though some of them perhaps not commonly applied in these disorders. They may likewise serve to lead the minds of youth, to a love and habit of simple, yet efficacious practice (a thing recommended by many, but understood by few) instead of a rash and tumultuary use of numerous and compound remedies. However, tho' simple practice is best in general, both for the safety of the sick, and the improvement of medicine; yet strong remedies

medies are sometimes necessary, and may on many occasions be properly and safely given, by any experienced physician; for there is a great difference between a prudent and honest caution, and a pusillanimous timidity.

I have related these cases with the strictest regard to truth, and in the shortest and clearest manner I was able; wishing to imitate those authors, who, shunning the tedious and obscure, make the art of medicine more easy and delightful to physicians; and even invite people of liberal minds, though not bred to medicine, to amuse themselves in these studies.

I could have added many more
cases

cases, had not my design been answered by a few: yet upon a similar plan, a short system might be formed, of simple but efficacious practice, in the diseases that most frequently occur, adding such rare and uncommon ones as give light in others of the same kind; a method by well chosen cases, in the manner of Ferrius, being the most instructive and agreeable; when accompanied with general observations, partly to illustrate and partly to amuse, as a series of naked cases soon become dry and disgusting, even to the lovers of medicine.

Great Titchfield Street,

Feb. 10, 1772.

SELECT CASES

**IN THE
PRACTICE of MEDICINE.**

PART I.

SECT. I.

THE true diabetes, as described by Aretæus, is a very rare disease, and in some ages and nations it seems to have been rarer than in others; for

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Galen

Galen affirms, that he saw the disease only twice ; and Astruc, in the populous city of Paris, never saw it at all. I have seen four cases of this disease ; two of which came very near the description of Aretæus, which for that reason I have translated into English, and subjoined. The third was more imperfect, and complicated with other disorders. The fourth seemed to me to be of a spurious kind, though it was attended with some of the chief symptoms of the diabetes.

The first case I met with was in the year 1750, immediately after obtaining my degree as
Doc.

Doctor of Medicine. A gentleman of rank and fortune, a relation of my own, whose elder brother had died of the same disease, was seized with a diabetes. He had been many years valetudinary, and was pretty much advanced in years : he had most of the symptoms mentioned in the description of Aretæus. I found almond emulsion, freely used as common drink, of very great use ; as it not only nourished him, and allayed his thirst, but gave great relief to his hectic heats, and the burning at the scrobiculum cordis. Alum and other restrungents had no effect upon his disease, but only bound
up

up his body. Daily riding, conserve of roses, with afs's milk, and other mild remedies, were the only things that did any good ; and so long as he continued in the use of these, he spun out his time with tolerable ease. The diabetes I look upon to be, in many things, a-kin to a consumption, the discharge by urine corresponding to the colliquative sweats ; and I treated it, in this gentleman, under that idea, not having then discovered the use of the tincture of cantharides, which, in one case, I found so efficacious as even to cure ; and in other two it was of great service. The above gentleman was
at

at last tired of his disease, and the mild remedies; and desiring a consultation of physicians older than me, they advised him to the use of the bark, which he continued for some time; but this medicine had no effect to relieve any one symptom; but on the contrary, loaded his stomach, palled his appetite, increased his thirst, the dryness of his mouth, and the other symptoms; and in a word, brought him to his grave somewhat sooner than he would otherwise have gone.

The second case that occurred to me of the diabetes, was that
of

of William Westly, an out-patient at the Middlesex Hospital, a tall young coachman. The disease had been several months upon him before he paid much regard to it; but at length it attacked him with such violence, that from a lusty stout young man, he was wasted to a shadow, and became so weak that he could hardly walk to the hospital, tho' very near his lodgings: on which account, I frequently visited him there. Almond emulsion, with gum-arabic, I found of great use to him, as simple emulsion had been to the former patient; but alum and the bark were of no use; on the contrary, these and
all

all astringents were hurtful, and affected only the stomach and intestines, by binding the body: at last, his strength being intirely wasted, so that he could hardly walk from his bed to a chair, and all his bad symptoms encreasing, I gave him up for lost; but endeavouring to form a theory of this uncommon disease, it came into my mind that it might, in some cases at least, be owing to a paralysis, or other such affection, of the nerves of the urinary passages: and knowing that cantharides had peculiar effects upon these parts, both in health and diseases, I prescribed ten gutts of the tincture of cantharides

tharides to be taken twice a-day in a wine-glass of water. Before he had taken this medicine four days, he found a change to the better; therefore I gradually increased the dose to twenty, and afterwards to thirty gutts, making him continue the emulsion with gum-arabic, in order to prevent the irritation of the cantharides. By this method, his strength and flesh returned in a surprising manner: the quantity of his urine was greatly diminished, and came near to the natural colour and taste; for at first it was not only void of the salt or urinous taste, but very mild and soft, and to me and some others

others appeared of a taste somewhat saccharine or milky. Tho' this medicine occurred to me entirely from theory or speculation, and from the general effects of cantharides on other occasions, yet I afterwards found it had been used with success by physicians in the diabetes, and was mentioned in one or two authors as useful in that disease.

The third case of the diabetes was that of another coachman, who came to me on hearing of the cure of the former patient: he was an older man, of a broken constitution, and subject to the gravel. By the use of the tincture

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ture

ture of cantharides, he for some time found himself much better; but being obliged, on account of his other complaints, to proceed more slowly, and at the same time to take other medicines, he became impatient; and hearing of great cures performed by the waters at Bristol, he went thither, and I have not heard of him since.

The fourth and last case of the diabetes, was that of a gentleman, about forty years of age: she for some months had made great quantities of limpid water, almost without taste or smell, attended with constant drought; but

but as her flesh did not diminish, and as she was affected with lowness of spirits, and other nervous symptoms, I considered her case to be partly nervous or hysterical; and therefore that the diabetes might be said to be symptomatic, or of a spurious kind. However, it yielded remarkably to the tincture of cantharides, along with the remedies usually given in hysterical complaints.

It is well known what a cry was raised in this capital, about a century ago, against the internal use of cantharides, and the prejudice still remains in the minds

minds of many physicians. By seeing the action of these insects on the skin and urinary passages when applied externally, it was natural to consider them as a caustic and a poison, and to dread the effects of their internal use. Accordingly, when I first gave the tincture of cantharides, I began with very small doses, being doubtful of their effects. However, I soon saw that the internal use of this medicine was not only safe, but useful and efficacious in many disorders, and that it was even possessed of great cordial virtues, without those bad effects commonly ascribed to it; for which
reason

reason I have, for a good many years past, frequently given this tincture, and have found it of great use in the following diseases; paralytic affections, dropsies, stoppage of urine from a spasmodic cause; also in asthmatic cases, chiefly of the spasmodic kind, some of which were of very long standing, and in hysterical disorders; likewise, as I observed before, as a cordial in weak spirits, and to enliven all the vital powers; in which respect, tho' a medicine of a very different kind, it deserves in some degree, a similar praise, to that bestowed by Sydenham on opium itself.

In



In the London hospitals, I find it has been given in some cutaneous disorders with great success, and in very large doses, and particularly at the Middlesex Hospital. I myself never gave it in very large doses, because I found great effects from a moderate one in all the cases in which I used it; and some of my patients could not bear even that quantity, though joined all along with camphorated emulsion. The effects of cantharides, externally applied, are well known to be very great, not only in fevers, and at the beginning of violent inflammations, which would otherwise have proved mor-

mortal ; but also to remove many topical pains, and other complaints, in most parts of the body ; as head-achs, sore eyes, tooth-achs, hardness of hearing, anginas, pleurifies, stoppage and incontinence of urine ; lastly, rheumatic, and even goutish pains in the trunk and extremities ; and it would appear, that among the many other intentions of the skin, both for use and for beauty, it was chiefly designed, from its great sensibility, as a medium for curing the internal diseases of the human body, by drawing them outwards by means of violent irritation. On this principle the burnings and sinapisms

of

of the antients were founded,
 and the moxa of the Chinese;
 but no substance hitherto discovered,
 except fire itself, seems so
 well calculated to produce this
 effect, as the irritation of the
 subtile parts of cantharides; nor
 can any medicines act with due
 force on the finer parts of our
 frame, except those, which by
 nature, or the assistance of art,
 are reduced to a great degree of
 subtilty; for of these medicines
 that are given in a grosser form,
 it is only the finer parts that are
 truly medicinal; the rest is rather
 a load to the body, and is
 discharged from it like the gross
 parts

parts of the aliment as useless and feculent.

S E C T. II.

The two following cases contain the history and cure of a disease in the oesophagus, on which there is a paper in the first volume of the Medical Transactions of the Royal College of London, by the late Doctor Munckley: the paper written by him, was read at the meeting of the College, August the 11th, 1767; and it was long after that period, before I heard that this disease had been seen or wrote

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upon by that gentleman : but in the beginning of June of that year (1767), I met with a case of this disorder, which at that time was entirely new to me; and I even suspected for some time that it was venereal. However, this suspicion, from the similarity of the two diseases, led me at once to the true remedy; and though some may still believe, that this disorder of the oesophagus is truly venereal; yet when we consider its seat, its symptoms, and its great danger; also the appearances of it in the body after death (from which some authors have declared it to be

in-

incurable) it is much more reasonable to look upon it as a new and peculiar disease of these parts. However, be the nature of the disease what it will, I can with great truth claim to myself, being the first, so far as I know, who discovered and accomplished the cure of it, without the least hint from any body else; and I fell upon it at once, in the manner I have said, by following the antient and simple rule given by Celsus; viz. in new or unknown diseases, apply the remedies that cure similar disorders already known.

June

June 2, 1767. Sarah Porter, aged thirty-five, was admitted an in-patient at the Middlesex Hospital. About half a year before, she was attacked with a cold and sore throat, recovered, but was taken with it a second time, and after that was ill as follows : she felt a violent pain at the left side of the os hyoïdes, and also lower down, which, as she said, seemed to rise and choke her : she took violent fits of coughing, and it hurt her even to swallow drink. She had taken nothing solid for about four months ; a yellow matter came away at times, as it were bursting from a sore : she was very costive, sleep-

fleeped ill, and was giddy : the
 pain in the part was constant :
 ſhe fell away greatly in her fleſh,
 was weak, and loſt her colour ;
 had heat and fever, and ſweated
 much at night, but was regular
 in her courſes. On looking in-
 to the fauces, nothing remark-
 able appeared : ſhe was then a
 married woman ; and being
 cloſely examined, and even
 frightened by the danger ſhe
 was in, affirmed that ſhe never
 had or ſuſpected herſelf to have
 had the venereal diſeaſe. I im-
 mediately ordered her to rub
 with the ſtrong mercurial un-
 guent, and to drink decoction of
 ſarſaparilla, in the ſame manner
 as

as if her case had been truly venereal, till I produced a moderate salivation, which was continued for some weeks ; and during that time, all the symptoms gradually disappeared ; but being forced by her impatience, to stop the salivation sooner than I intended, the symptoms began to appear again ; but by repeating the same remedy, they were totally removed, and she was discharged from the hospital perfectly cured.

December 29, 1767. Rebecca Harris, fifty-two years of age, became an out-patient at the same hospital ; formerly healthy,
about

about the Easter before caught cold, and was ill from that time. She felt, as she said, a creeping up from her stomach, and soon after had a great difficulty in breathing, and then a hoarseness, and her deglutition went away by degrees; so that in the space of about six weeks, she could not swallow even a dish of tea, something seeming to push it up again. This continued for about five weeks; and sometimes she thought her throat would have closed. This patient was cured at her own lodgings, where I often visited her, by the same method, and in about the same length of time with the
for-

former patient ; and in both the one and the other the salivation went on in the easiest manner, without the least bad symptom ; nor, upon the strictest examination, was there any reason to suspect that the case of this patient was venereal.

Mercury is, no doubt, the most powerful antidote known in venereal disorders : tho' sarsaparilla and China roots, guaiacum, and perhaps other simples, are also powerful antivenereals, and will perform cures sometimes even when mercury fails. It is said the inhabitants of the newly-discovered islands can cure the
 vene-

venereal disease by simples of their own. The preparations of mercury are often of great efficacy, and agree wonderfully with some constitutions, making a radical cure in a shorter time, and with less trouble, than crude mercury alone; and indeed in most cases, till we see what best agrees with the patient, it is proper to join the internal use of these preparations to the mercurial unction, particularly the solution of sublimate, one grain dissolved in four ounces of a watry liquor, of which a common spoonful for a dose once a-day to adults. This solution is so safe, that I have often given it to in-

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fants,



fants, a tea spoonful every night for some time, with safety and success, in venereal and some cutaneous affections: but though many methods have been devised to cure venereal disorders in a safe, speedy and pleasant manner, something seems to be still wanting to complete that purpose. I have long observed, that where this disorder went off by the urinary passages, the above ends were most completely attained; so that little confinement, either in diet or regimen, was necessary. I have often had patients, where the distemper discharged itself solely or chiefly in this way, without any intention

tion of mine ; and I was at some pains to discover the causes of that particular effect ; and tho' I could not entirely satisfy myself ; yet I have great reason to believe, that a method may be found, to cure many cases of the venereal disease, in a pleasant and easy manner, chiefly or solely, if I may so speak, by urination.

PART

P A R T II.

S E C T. I.

MANY despise the use of mild and simple remedies, and look for great effects from violent medicines only; but tho' some of these, when properly managed, are indeed powerful and efficacious, and on some occasions are even necessary; yet in all ordinary cases, which are by far the greatest number, simple and easy remedies are generally found sufficient to effect a cure: the power of nature only in acute diseases, and the opinion and
 prac-

practice of the greatest physicians of all ages, (some of whom rejecting medicines totally, cured by diet and regimen alone) are sufficient to confirm this doctrine; and as the methods of Nature, in all her operations, proceeding by slow and simple processes in her most difficult works, clearly show the efficacy of mild and gentle powers, that operate slow and imperceptibly; I hope the mildness and simplicity of the remedies which performed the following cures, will be no prejudice against them, but will rather recommend them both to physicians and to the sick.

Mary

Mary Philips, a labouring woman, about forty years of age, in 1761, came to the Middlesex Hospital with a cancerous ulcer on her nose, corroding the tip of it, the nostril, and the lip below, but with very little pain; she was otherwise in good health, and regular in her courses. This disorder she attributed to hard working in frost and snow. The extract of hemlock was tried along with the bark, which seemed at first to have effect in stopping the progress of the ulcer, but at length it lost its efficacy, and the virulent corrosion went on very fast. Uneasy to see a patient to whom I could render

no

no service, I dismissed her from the hospital as incurable; advising her to take no remedies from strangers, or people ignorant of medicine, without consulting a physician. In a short time she sent me a prescription which was recommended to her, asking my advice if she might take it with safety; and as all the ingredients were mild and innocent, I advised her to make trial of it, and gave her the medicines from the hospital. Having used them a week, she sent me word she was much better, and desired I would repeat the medicines, and in a fortnight more she came to the hospital, in a manner
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perfectly cured ; a small redness only remaining upon the nose. The medicines were, a decoction of three ounces of sarsaparilla and half an ounce of liquorice roots, in two quarts of water to one, a quart to be drunk every day. Happy by this success, and the sarsaparilla seeming to me, from its known efficacy in other diseases, to be the chief or only thing to which I could ascribe the cure ; and finding it recommended for cancers in some authors, I was determined to try it in the next case of the like nature that occurred. Accordingly,

April

April 15th, 1766, Thomas Wicks, a carver, came to the Middlesex Hospital. He had an ugly ill-coloured scabby ulcer on his nose, formerly painful, but now attended with great itching only: it had been a year in coming, began with a pimple, and had increased by degrees to its present state: there was a great discharge of ichor from it, and a hole was made in the gristle of the septum narium. This man in about six weeks was entirely cured by a decoction of *sarsaparilla* alone, six ounces drunk thrice a-day, with a dose of Glauber's salts and manna once a-week; and I have often

F

seen

seen him since perfectly well, and very thankful for his cure.

Hannah Fell, a girl about 20, was attacked with a violent itching, and angry-looking redness, upon the nose and the right cheek; for which she had taken a good many doses of salts, by the advice of an apothecary; but the disorder increased, and alarmed both her and her mother. I prescribed the remedies as in the former case; but as she had already taken so many doses of salts, she omitted that part of the remedy, and begged to be excused from it. Accordingly, I continued the decoction
of

of sarsaparilla with the fomentation, and in about three weeks she was perfectly cured.

The success in these three cases, the first of which at least was evidently of a cancerous nature, may encourage us to try the use of mild remedies, even in disorders the most dangerous and malignant: to confirm which, I shall relate a very remarkable effect of the electrical machine, in a case of a cancerous kind; which may serve to illustrate, and give new ideas of the nature of this remedy, and of that terrible disorder.

T O 3 2

Ann

Ann Abbot had been long afflicted with scirrhus tumours and violent shooting pains in the right breast, but especially about the axilla: every thing in the common way had been tried that promised to give relief; but without effect; and her pains were so great, that she lived in the utmost misery; but by the use of the electrical machine once a-day, her pains were gradually diminished, till at length they were totally removed, and the scirrhus tumours were likewise considerably dissolved by the use of the same remedy.

S E C T.

S E C T. II.

In order further to shew the great efficacy of the milder remedies, which cannot be too much recommended in the practice of medicine ; as so much mischief is daily done, by the rash and blind abuse of the stronger and more violent ones : I have added the few following cases, in two of which the powder of wild valerian root, given in form of an electary, seemed to me to have performed the principal part of the cure. This medicine I have found a most useful remedy in the cure of paralytic disorders, the chorea sancti Viti,

Viti, and the colica pictonum, after proper evacuations, and also sometimes in epilepsies.

William Cole, aged about 60, a carpenter, of a sound constitution, on August 30, 1768, became an out-patient at the Middlesex Hospital. After a fall, he was attacked with a very great debility, so that his stools and urine came away involuntarily and suddenly, six or seven times a-day, in whatever posture or place he happened to be in: he had also violent pains, especially on these occasions, from his neck to his fundament, with a feeling as if water had been poured down
the

the spine; and at those times, if on his feet, to prevent falling, he was obliged to sit down: he was at no time free from some degree of this feeling. By these complaints his life was so miserable, that he wished for death: his appetite, which did not leave him, was his only support; but he was unable to work, and was afraid, after a healthy and laborious life, to be obliged to go upon the parish, though he had reared a numerous family by his own labour only. I prescribed the following remedies:

R. Decoct. cort. peruv. $\mathfrak{z}$ i, capiat bis die.

R. Pulv. valenian. $\mathfrak{ss}$ ij.

Syr. f. q. s. fiat bolus, cap. ter. die.

ord

To

To these I afterwards added an infusion of camomile flowers with anniseeds in boiling water, a gill to be drunk twice a-day, with thirty drops of spirit of hartshorn or lavender occasionally, when low spirited. By this method, he found an alteration to the better the third day, and became better and better every day, so that in a short time he was perfectly cured; and when I wrote this case, he had been for three weeks entirely free from all his complaints; and was able to work as usual.

Elizabeth Waller, aged forty, was admitted an inpatient at the

the Middlesex Hospital, November 1st, 1768. Her loins and lower extremities were so weak, that she was unable to walk, nor could she sit in an erect posture: she had lost her flesh and colour, slept ill, and was troubled with cold sweats. Her bowels were so weak, and in such disorder, that the least thing either bound or purged her: she had violent pains in her thighs, and from her loins down to her knees: she found most ease when she lay abed, and after she took to it, her appetite was better; a hard tumour was felt on the vertebræ of the loins; so that it is probable from all the symptoms,

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that

that some of these vertebræ were distorted or diseased, so as to compress the spinal marrow, her courses had been obstructed for a whole year. In order to remove the pressure from the spine, I ordered her to use crutches, when she attempted to stand or walk, by which the weight of the body was chiefly supported upon the axillæ. I gave her two drachms of the valerian bolus twice a day, and a gill of camomile-tea as often, a small dose of tincture of rhubarb twice a-week, and twenty drops of tinctura thebaica every night at bedtime; by the use of which, in

a few days she was able to rise from her seat without help, and in a week she could walk a few steps by the help of a stick, and in a fortnight she could walk across the ward without any help at all: her colour and spirits began to return, and she went out of the hospital cured of this disorder, and has been since an out-patient for other complaints of a slighter kind.

As cases similar to the following one may now and then occur, it is perhaps not unworthy of being related.

Ben-

Benjamin Barret, aged forty, was struck with lightning, and fell down senseless in the fields hard by the Middlesex Hospital, but soon came to himself, and was brought in there. He could hardly fetch his breath, and turned worse and worse, so that he thought himself dying: he said he had never been ill before in his life. I immediately ordered him to be bled, which gave him some ease: a blister was then applied to his breast, from which he soon found great and sudden relief; the blister was kept open, and the man was perfectly well in a few days.

In people struck with lightning,
and

and in apoplexies, and some other sudden disorders of that kind, after bleeding, it might perhaps be adviseable to apply the electrical machine, being the most penetrating as well as most sudden and powerful stimulus hitherto known.

I shall conclude with the history and cure of a leprosy or scaly cutaneous disorder.

Martin Kelly, a man about forty years of age, became an out-patient at the Middlesex Hospital in the year 1761, full of dry scales from the crown of his head to the sole of his foot, like

a leper, with a continual itching all over him. The scales were thin, and of all sizes, from that of a crown piece and downwards, and two hatfuls, as he expressed it, were taken from his body every day; he was several months an out-patient, but received little benefit, though he took several remedies of a strong kind, and particularly the solution of sublimate, which always made him sick, tho' he never took it but in very small doses. At length he became an in-patient, and in the space of seven weeks he was perfectly cured by the following method. He drank three pints of camomile tea every day, he
went

went into the warm bath thrice a week ; he took two tea spoonfuls of antimonial wine thrice a-day, and a dose of Glauber's salts once a-week, sometimes twice. He continued for several years after free from this disease, except a few scales, scarce worthy of notice, that sometimes appeared in the spring and fall.

How far we ought to attribute the cure in the above case to the antimonial medicine, and how far to the other remedies, I shall not pretend to determine ; only it appears, that the tartar emetic, and other preparations of antimony, are often administered

ed with great success in diseases both acute and chronical, but especially in fevers. This surprising febrifuge virtue did not escape the sagacious Sydenham, though he gave the antimonial only as an emetic. “ I have
 “ often wondered,” says he,
 “ when I curiously examined
 “ the matter thrown up by vo-
 “ mit, and found it neither large
 “ in quantity, nor remarkable
 “ for any bad quality, how it
 “ came to pass that the sick
 “ found so much relief thereby,
 “ as all the bad symptoms, (viz.
 “ the nausea, the anxiety, the
 “ tossings, the dismal sighs, the
 “ blackness of the tongue, &c.)
 “ which

“ which tormented the sick and
 “ terrified the by-standers, were
 “ commonly relieved, and dis-
 “ appeared as soon as the vomit-
 “ ing was over, and the disease
 “ went on afterwards in a more
 “ mild and gentle manner,” p.
 26. edit. 1685. But this great
 man, though he observed these
 salutary effects, at least so early
 as 1666, when he published the
 first edition of his works; yet
 did not pursue the idea, from
 his prejudice, I suppose, against
 the existence of medicines, com-
 monly called specific, or such as
 perform great effects in a silent
 manner, without any sensible o-
 peration, of which he admit-

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ted

ted none, the Peruvian bark only excepted. However, it is most certain that antimonial medicines almost instantaneously remove beginning fevers, of almost every kind; also sometimes revive oppressed nature, in the more advanced stages of low and nervous ones, when given in small doses often repeated; and that even, when no sensible evacuation is produced, though it seems adviseable, at first, always to give them to that degree as to produce some evident evacuation; yet it must be confessed, that these medicines do not always produce the same salutary effects. In some chronical disorders,

orders, antimonials are likewise of great use, particularly in certain cutaneous ones. I had likewise two cases, in which tartar emetic cured beginning dropsies, caused by obstruction of the menses: it acted chiefly by urine, and by gradually increasing the dose, I gave at last ten grains without the least emetic effect.

Several metallic substances, and particularly mercury and antimony, have great medicinal virtues; and when dissolved in and united to saline substances by the art of chemistry, seem to mix easily with the animal fluids,

fluids, and to penetrate deep into the vascular system, acting as it would appear, not only as evacuants and by irritation, but also by resolving and deobstruent powers. Basil Valentine, a famous old chemical author, is full of the great effects that may be performed by the preparations of antimony; which effects were long looked upon as fabulous and chimerical. The use of this medicine was, till of late, better known abroad, and particularly in France, than in Great Britain, but is now come into common practice in this country. The farriers have long had a great opinion of antimony,

as

as a cleanser and purifier in the diseases of horses, giving them, as they affirm, a fine smooth coat. The diseases of brute animals, especially of the nobler and more useful kind, are not below the notice of physicians; not only for the sake of these animals, but because from thence may be derived observations, useful in curing the diseases of mankind.

APPEN.

APPENDIX.

BEING in the country a few years ago, on account of my health, I amused myself with translating the works of Aretæus, and some parts of Hippocrates, into English. The noble candour and simplicity of these ancient authors, must delight every person of true taste and judgment; though perhaps that very simplicity may appear insipid, to those whose taste is formed on modern writers alone. The following is a faithful translation

lation of Aretæus's chapter on the diabetes ; but it is not easy, along with the simplicity, to imitate the other beauties of the author, or the music and richness of the Ionic dialect.

Of the DIABETES.

“ The disease of the diabetes is wonderful, and not common among men : it is a melting down of the flesh and members into urine ; the cause is moist and cold, as in dropsies, and by the usual passage, the kidneys and bladder : the patient is perpetually making water, and the drain is incessant, like that from
open

open canals. The nature of the disease is chronical, and is a long time in forming; and if it comes to its height, the person does not long survive; for the wasting is rapid, and death comes quick, after a life most disagreeable and painful; an unquenchable thirst and much drinking, yet not equal to the great quantity of urine, and you can neither prevent them from drinking nor from making water; for if they refrain in the least from drinking, the mouth becomes dry, and the bowels are, as it were, on fire: they are uneasy and restless, and soon die with a burning thirst: no method can pre-

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vent this drain of water, and the force of the disease overcomes modesty ; and if they but for a little struggle against it, they swell in the loins, the hips and the testicles ; and when they remit their efforts, the urine again runs off plentifully, and the swelled parts subside, discharging their load by the bladder.

When the disease is far advanced, it is easily known ; but even before that time, the mouth is dry, the spittle white and frothy, as from thirst, even before the thirst comes on, a weight is felt about the hypochond-

chondria, and a sense of heat, or of cold, passing from the belly to the bladder, pointing out, as it were, the road of the disease. At this time the urine begins to increase a little, and they have thirst, but not very great.

But if the disease wax stronger, there is a small but pungent heat fixed in the bowels, the abdomen is wrinkly, with large veins, and the whole body is emaciated, and then the urine and the thirst increase greatly, and when a sensation comes to the end of the yard, they directly make water; and I imagine the disease is called diabetes, i. e.

a passage or conduit, because the water does not remain in the body, but the man becomes, as it were, a pipe or outlet to discharge it. The patient still holds out a certain time, but not very long, because he makes water to great excess, and a dreadful wasting ensues; for very little of the drink remains in the habit, and almost the whole flesh is melted down into urine.

“ The cause of the diabetes may be either acute diseases discharging themselves on these parts, and secretly leaving in their crisis some bad matter there, or else some poison that hurts

hurts the kidneys and bladder. Thus if one is bit by the dipfas, the symptoms resemble the diabetes. The dipfas is a reptile which, by its bite, raises an unquenchable thirst; and though drink is taken immoderately, the thirst is not cured, but the belly is filled with redundant water; and if any, by reason of pain and distress from the distension of the belly, for a short time refrain from drinking, thirst obliges them soon to drink largely again; such is the alternate attack of these evils, thirst and drinking by turns distressing nature. Others have no discharge by urine; and there being

being no other vent, by excessive drinking, redundancy of water, and stretching of the belly, they suddenly burst.

FINIS.

